

## The *Fund Our Communities* Campaign:

With the U.S. facing devastating economic and environmental crises, with our states and cities forced into layoffs and cutbacks, now is the moment to demand a shift in our country's priorities. Military spending -- now more than \$700 billion per year -- is bankrupting our country and draining the life blood of our communities



Campaign at Labor Day Rally, Boston Common

Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank, in calling for a 25% reduction in military spending, has put the issue clearly -- *"If we are not able to get military spending under control...we will not be able to respond to important domestic needs."*

We support a 25% reduction in military spending, with the savings put toward meeting urgent needs, including the funding of jobs in housing, health care, education, clean energy and infrastructure repairs -- and preventing the layoff of State and local public workers in the Commonwealth. The call for a 25% reduction is a practical step. Just ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, cutting unneeded weapons programs, and eliminating wasteful spending would easily meet the goal without compromising our security in any way.

*Fund Our Communities, Reduce Military Spending 25% is a taskforce of Greater Boston United for Justice with Peace and works in cooperation with MA Peace Action. It is part of a growing nationwide movement to cut military spending and fund domestic needs. Please, [contact us](#)!*

## Move the Money: The National Campaign

An idea whose time has come!

## Local News

**!!!MA Congressmen Capuano, Delahunt, Markey, McGovern and Olver have signed onto the **Frank/Paul Dear Colleague letter calling for serious cuts in military spending. Please scroll down for important alert information. The sign on deadline has now been extended until Thursday, October 7 - and is open to Senators.!!!****

### Vote NO on Question 3

<http://votenoquestion3.com/towns.php>

The MA sales tax helps provide funding for good schools, higher education, roads, parks, public safety and community health and social services.

Check out this local impact map on [votenoquestion3.com](http://votenoquestion3.com)

. It shows the estimated cuts to school funding and local aid for every one of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns if Question 3 passes and the sales tax is cut from 6.25% to 3%. Click your town on the local impact map at [votenoquestion3.com/towns.php](http://votenoquestion3.com/towns.php)

**9/25 Arlington TOWN DAY:** [State Senator Ken Donnelly and State Representatives Will Brownsberger and Jay Kaufmann sign 25% Solution petition!!!](#) Arlington 25% Solution campaign collects nearly 100 petition signatures, finds new members and converses with town organizations affected by budget cuts. *Update: 9/26* [Arlington School Committee chair signs onto Fund Our Communities sign-on letter for MA Organizations and Elected Officials.](#)

**9/25 Bridgewater AUTUMNFEST:** Citizens for an Informed Community members conversed with many who came and handed out about 200 25% brochures at the Bridgewater Autumnfest.

**LABOR DAY:** The 25% campaign joined the Labor Day rally on Boston Common, organized by SEIU Local 615.

**Summer/'10: Fall River and Worcester MAYORS sign on to campaign!**

Fall River Mayor William A Flanagan and Worcester Mayor Joe O'Brien write President Obama and Congress in support of Frank's call to reduce military spending 25% and fund domestic needs. In this, they join the mayors of Boston, Northampton and the former mayor of Newton

"Fund our communities by cutting military spending." The idea is catching fire. UFPJ, Peace Action, Grassroots Global Justice, US Action, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Institute for Policy Studies are among the groups that want to work or already have campaigns to "move the money." The wave is growing!

Working with them, we are turning this wave into on-the-ground organization. This summer, 25% activists led workshops at the US Social Forum with Peace Action, Grassroots Global Justice, and UFPJ. We took quick organizing trips and helped activists in New York City, metro Philadelphia, and northern Maryland pull together their own campaigns. On October 3 we will co-coordinate a meeting in DC for organizations that want to work on the campaign.

If this by-invitation meeting agrees on national coordination, 25% could join a broad alliance of campaigns to Move the Money from the Pentagon to our neighborhoods. US Labor Against the War is proposing a resolution campaign: get your city council, school board, congregation, union, and grassroots organization to pass resolutions, then take them to Congress next spring.

It's all up for discussion in our new, rapidly spreading movement. Stay tuned!

## .....*Upcoming*.....

### **October 23**

SAVING OUR SCHOOLS: Balancing Books and Bombs  
A **workshop** at First Parish UU Framingham, 24 Vernon St., Framingham, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Join us for a discussion of how we can save our schools and other community needs. Chris Hellman of National Priorities Project, Mike Prokosch of Fund Our Communities/Reduce Military Spending 25%

Sponsored by MetroWest Peace Action, Fund Our Communities/Reduce Military Spending 25%, and National Priorities Project

**October 24:** Stay tuned for details of a Fund Our Communities **workshop in Watertown.**

## ***Alert!***

The struggle to cut Pentagon spending has reached an important juncture. **Congressmen Barney Frank and Ron Paul are circulating a letter to members of Congress that calls for serious cuts in US military spending.** Now is the time to get your Congressional delegation to support the Frank/Paul effort and co-sign their letter. **The deadline for signers is Friday, September 24 at 6 PM.** (Deadline has been extended now until Thursday, October 7. Current number of signatures as of 9/30: 49. The letter has been opened to Senators. Senator Wyden is leading the effort in the Senate.)

Addressed to the Deficit Reduction Commission (the one that'll probably try to slash Medicare and Social Security), the letter says:  
- we must scale back Washington's "vast range of global commitments on all continents and oceans."  
... including "our nuclear umbrella and the troops stationed in our overseas military bases."  
-"any deficit reduction package must contain significant cuts to the military budget."

**Please call your Congressperson at 202-224-3121. Urge your Congressperson to sign on to Congressmen Frank's and Paul's Dear Colleague letter, telling the Deficit Reduction Commission that any report they release for Congressional consideration should include significant military spending cuts**

**Current signees (49):** Sen. Cardin, Sen. Leahy, Sen. Sanders, Sen. Wyden, Baldwin, Blumenauer, Capuano, Clay, Cohen, Conyers, Cummings, DeFazio, Delahunt, Donna Edwards, Farr, Fattah, Filner, Frank, Grayson, Grijalva, Hastings, Honda, Lee, Lewis, Maloney, Markey, McCollum, McGovern, George Miller,

*Gwen Moore, Nadler, Norton, Olver, Pallone, Paul, Polis, Price, Quigley, Rush, Linda Sanchez, Schrader, Serrano, Sires, Stark, Tierney, Waters, Watt, Welch and Woolsey.*

**Let's thank those who have signed on!**

## Reports

**7/1 Move the Money, Starve the Empire.** Report from the US Social Forum by Christine Ahn, Foreign Policy in Focus

**6/11 New Report:**

**Debt, Deficits, and Defense - A Way Forward**

by the Sustainable Defense Task Force

- Read the report (pdf)
- Watch the SDTF press conference with Rep. Frank
- Read their letter to the Fiscal Responsibility Commission
- Read the press coverage on Common Dreams and The Hill